

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 2 is pending in the present application. Claim 2 was amended in this response. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendment. The specification was also amended to correct typographical errors and inconsistencies, and to properly recite the disclosures contained in the drawings.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *La Rosa et al.* (US Patent 6,078,611). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The cited art, alone or in combination, does not disclose “reading the data by a late finger in the early-late tracking; buffer-storing the data; and passing on the data one read cycle later to an early finger for reading by the late finger in the early-late tracking” as recited in claim 2. According to the claim, an early-late tracking is provided, in which data received in the rake receiver, read by a late finger in the early-late tracking, is buffer stored and is passed on one read cycle later to an early finger for reading by the same in the early-late tracking. In other words, the same data (first being the data for the late finger) is buffer-stored and used again one read cycle later as the data for the early finger. Under this configuration, the memory in which received data is stored includes consecutive values for the early, the main and the late finger, in which the value of a late finger of one read cycle is the value of the early finger for the following read cycle. The claim recites use of this data structure in the memory in order to lower the number of read steps with regard to the memory.

In contrast, *La Rosa* discloses a time tracking circuit (FIG. 2) that maintains a time separation between a first receiver finger and a second receiver finger by jointly controlling tracking of the first finger timing and the second finger timing (see col. 5, lines 55-65). In order to accomplish this, *La Rosa* teaches that the two fingers share the same early-late time tracking loop (col. 5, lines 20-31). The early-time signal is the de-spread pilot for one finger and the late-time signal is the de-spread pilot for the other finger (see FIG. 3 and accompanying text). Under this configuration, the signals of two main fingers deriving from different signal path. However, *La Rosa* does not describe or teach the use of data firstly in a late finger and one read cycle later in an early finger. Under the teaching of *La Rosa*, this would mean that the de-spread pilot for

the other finger would include data useable also as data of the first finger, which is contrary to the operation disclosed in *La Rosa*.

Additionally, *La Rosa* does not disclose to buffer store the above mentioned value firstly used by a late finger. The Office Action cited column 10, lines 20 to 25 and 64 to 65, however, these passages have nothing to do with the buffer storage of data belonging to an early or a late finger. The storage device illustrated in FIG. 6 has the purpose to "store the no early adjust signal and the no late adjust signal for each finger". These data values relate to the problem to maintain a certain time difference between the different rake receiver fingers. They include information about whether a timing adjustment for a finger of the rake receiver is allowed or not. So, the memory has a completely different function as the buffer store according to claim 2 of the present application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is improper and should be withdrawn. In light of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn. As such, claim 2 of the present application is patentable over the art of record. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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